

KELSALE-CUM-CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman: Cllr Alan Revell

Parish Clerk: Marie Backhouse

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33rd Meeting of Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Group **7pm on Monday 20 March 2023** **Acorn Cottage, Main Road, Kelsale**

1. Welcome and apologies

Attending: Keith Dickerson (KD, Chair), Jem Adams (JA), Jerry Bowdrey (JB), Chris Colchester (CCol), Martin Colchester (MC), Marie Adams (MA)

Apologies: Janet Barnes (JxB), Sarah Courage (SC), David Edgerley (DE), Charles Cuthbert (CC), Sam Hanks (SH)

2. Notes and Actions from 32nd meeting on 20 February 2023

The minutes of the 32nd meeting were approved subject to a 1-week delay for members to check them.

KD had sent the Parkgate Farm species list to David Chenery. The species list for Carlton Meres should be completed before being published on the BAP Sites Register (see Agenda Item 8).

KD has still to update JB's Register of Notable Trees with 10 largest oak trees in KcC.

Action: KD

CC had submitted 2 excellent articles in the latest issue of KcC Community News.

3. Results of Biodiversity Survey of land behind Acorn Cottage (Site G39)

The Biodiversity Survey of the land behind Acorn Cottage had gone well but we would need to survey it again in 2-3 months when more wildflowers would be in bloom. JB to send the species list to KD. JA to send a plan of the 3 acres to KD for the BAP Site Register. KD to rename Site G39 "Acorn Wood".

We should also investigate the possibility of a wildlife corridor between Site G39 Acorn Wood and Site G3 Curlew Green Meadow and it would be useful to hold the next BAP Group meeting at The Walnuts and carry out related biodiversity surveys.

Action: CC to provide outline plan to KD

4. Update to Annual Parish Meeting on 5 April

It was agreed that KD and JB would jointly present an update of the BAP Group's activities to the APM. KD to raise funding issue at the APM as this was holding back the BAP Group's progress.

JxB and CC would also provide local information on the location and occupancy of our swift boxes in Kelsale-cum-Carlton to augment Eddie Bathgate's presentation on the importance of conserving swifts.

5. Biodiversity Action Plan

We have agreed to draft a BAP for Kelsale-cum-Carlton by the end of 2023. Itb was recognised that Kelsale-cum-Carlton has 8 of the habitats identified in the Suffolk BAP. Richard Smith had also forwarded an example of a BAP produced by Lavenham (Richard Livall) in support of their Neighbourhood Plan and was encouraging other parishes to provide something similar. However, it was noted that the Lavenham document was a 'Biodiversity Statement' and not a full BAP and we were in a position to go further than this for KcC.

JB provided an outline of the KCC BAP (see Annex). This should contain an appraisal of the habitats present in KcC (including the proportion of land being managed for biodiversity) and as complete as possible a list of the species present. It should also contain a set of recommendations to improve the biodiversity in KcC. **Action: All to work with JB on BAP**

Action: JA to give Tithe Map on memory stick to KD

Action: KD to reply to Richard Livall

6. Spinney Pocket Park

The BAP Group had produced a draft Management Plan for Spinney Pocket Park in 2020 and presented it to the PC. They had been supportive of the aims of the project but had not been able to give us any money to actually carry it out. We had also drafted an article "Join the Friends of Spinney Pocket Park" for KcC Community News in 2022 to try to get community support and steer for the proposals as we recognised it should be a community led project. However, the Primary School had told us that they hadn't got the resources to help and no one from the Spinney Close area had offered support either.

On 19 March KD had met a tree surgeon, Shaun Wright, at Spinney Close and walked round the woodland pointing out things that needed doing to improve the biodiversity and usability, in particular to let more light in to improve the understory. Shaun said he would provide 3 quotes covering red, amber and green work as follows:

- red: trees that were a danger to people using the park or might block the footpath in the future,
- amber: trees that needed thinning out and were preventing other trees from growing properly into mature trees,
- green: things that weren't essential but would be 'nice to have' to improve the biodiversity and usability of the woodland.

We could then ask the PC to go ahead with one or more of these options depending on the amount of money available. **Action: KD to go back to PC with options**

7. Ditch work in Tiggins Lane

Ditch work had been undertaken to clear drains in Tiggins Lane without reference to the BAP Group. The waste had been dumped on the verges without consideration of the nearby RNR. **Action: KD to check with PC**

8. Future Biodiversity Surveys

We had agreed to prioritise additional biodiversity surveys for those necessary to fill any gaps in the BAP.

We will carry out the following Biodiversity surveys in April/May 2023:

- April: Brightmere – the two large oak trees had been measured but there were also some interesting woodland and pond features. **Action: KD to get permission**
- Early May and September: Carlton Meres – completing the survey begun in 2021. **Action: JB/CC to arrange**
- Late May: Garden House, Carlton Park. **Action: KD to arrange**
- May/June: Nonsuch Farm – we should carry out more detailed surveys including an entomological (moth trap) survey.

Access to be investigated for the following sites:

- Land behind Buskie Farm, North Green (IP17 2RJ) – grassy scrub surrounded by mature hedges.
- Field to North East of Town Farm, North Green with a linear moat.
- Woods between Well House and the border with Saxmundham (labelled Ash Ground and Oak Ground on O.S. map). **Action: KD to ask John Pulham**

9. Report back to KCC Parish Council

KD will be in Nice on business and will not be able to report back to the next PC meeting 29 March.

Date of Next Meeting: 7pm on 17 April at The Walnuts (arrive at 6pm for a survey of Site G3 and related areas).

Annex Outline Kelsale-cum-Carlton Biodiversity Action Plan

The following Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan habitats are present in Kelsale-cum-Carlton:

- Arable Field Margins
- Hedgerows
- Lowland Meadows
- Open Mosaic
- Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodlands
- Ponds
- Rivers and Streams
- Traditional Orchards

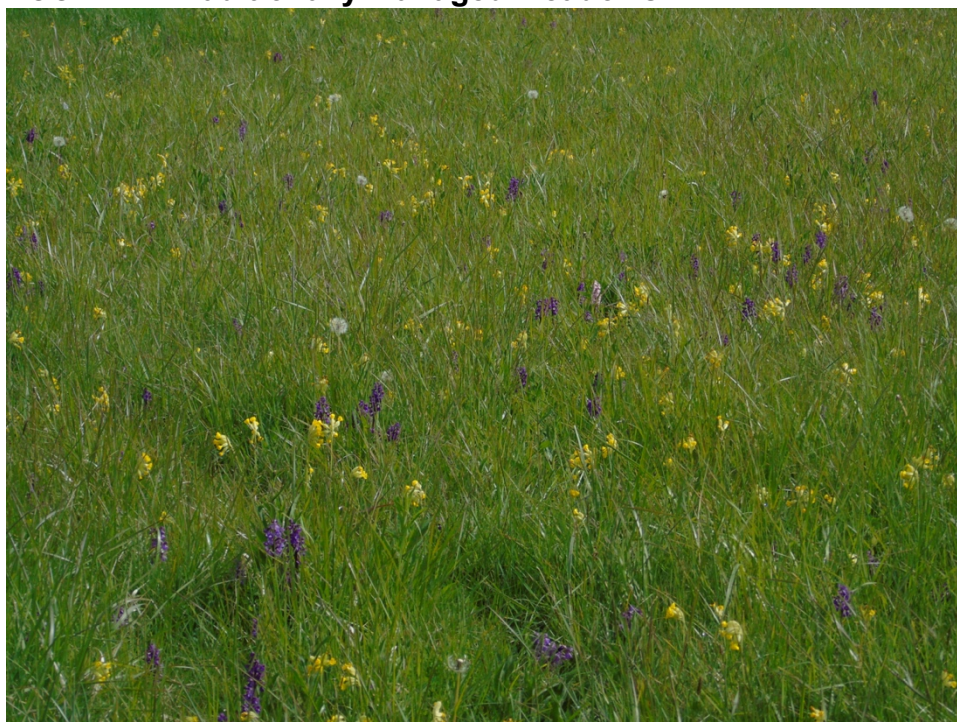
Example 1 A habitat action plan

Section 1: HABITATS: Lowland Meadows

Definition: Long-established areas dominated by a close sward of grasses and wildflowers and usually subjected to a regular cutting regime.

Conservation designations: Kelsale Morio Meadow is a County Wildlife Site

KCC BAP: Traditionally Managed Meadows



Green-winged orchids and Cowslips at Kelsale Morio Meadow

Species rich meadows that have been managed traditionally and have not been subjected to improvement.

Since WWII such traditionally managed meadows have suffered a massive decline nationally, estimated to be in the region of 97 %. Reasons include agricultural intensification, building and lack of management leading to scrub invasion.

In KCC only a handful of such meadows survive, amounting to only 0.2% of the total land area of the Parish. All are in private ownership. By definition, ancient meadows cannot be created.

Associated species:

Orchid species, Adder's Tongue Fern, Pepper Saxifrage, Cowslip

Inventory:

Bell and Half Gull Meadow

Land behind the Cottages, High Street, Kelsale, adjacent to the River Fromus (TM387641).

Area: approx. 1 acre

Ownership: Privately owned

Official conservation designation: none

Managed: Yes

Kelsale Morio Meadow

Land North of the Bungalow, Clayhill Road (TM 399642) Area: 3.1 acres

Ownership: Privately owned

Official conservation Designation: **County Wildlife Site** designated on account of the large population of *Orchis morio* (Early Purple Orchid) and other flora.

Managed: Yes

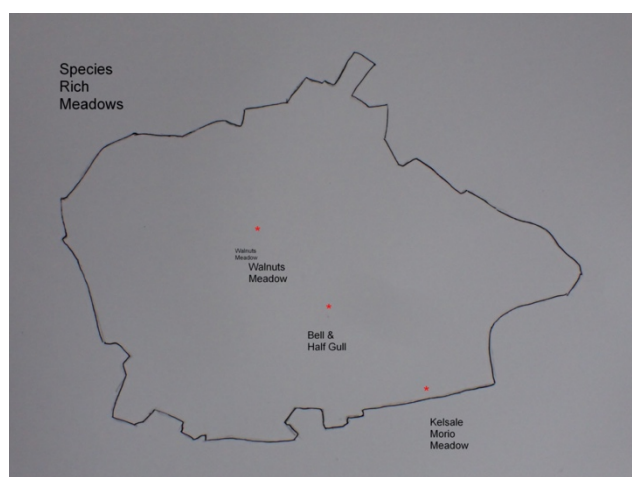
Curlew Green Meadow

Land to the east of The Walnuts, Curlew Green (TM381656) 0.8 acres.

Ownership: Privately owned

Official conservation designation: none

Managed: Yes, after a period of neglect.



Location of meadows

Threats:

- Inappropriate changes of management
- Lack of management
- Improvement by fertilizers, weedkillers etc.
- Agricultural activities
- Development
- Climate change

Actions:

- Encourage continued traditional management of existing meadows
- Seek statutory protection for surviving meadows
- Identify and protect any additional qualifying areas in the Parish

Targets:

- All meadows protected by 2025

See also HABITATS: Roadside verges, Open Mosaic, Gardens and species

Example 2 A species action plan

SECTION 2: Species: Native Plants

Ophioglossum vulgatum L. Adder's Tongue Fern



A native fern of damp, acid to chalky soils. Found mainly in meadows and pastures but also in woods, fens, marshes and heaths. Occurs in 94 tetrads in Suffolk (A Flora of Suffolk, 2010) but known only from two sites in KCC, Kelsale Morio Meadow and Curlew Green Meadow. The ecology of this species makes it unsuitable for introducing to newly established meadows.

Threats:

- Increase in soil fertility
- Inappropriate management
- Climate change

Actions:

- Encourage the continuation of appropriate management of existing sites
- Seek statutory protection for these sites.
- Survey for further locations for the fern and continue with existing, or introduce appropriate management where located.

Targets:

- All meadows with adder's tongue protected by 2025